

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PACIFIC BASIN AREA
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

TREE/SHRUB PRUNING

(Hectare, Acre)
CODE 660A

DEFINITION

Removing all or parts of selected branches from trees and shrubs.

PURPOSES

- Improve the intended function of the plant;
- Improve the appearance of trees or shrubs;
- Improve the quality of the tree/shrub product; and,
- Reduce a safety hazard.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On crop trees/shrubs of high-value species (e.g. trees grown for select lumber, poles, or canoes); on trees where removing all or parts of branches enhances the beauty and/or safety of an area; and to remove hazardous or diseased portions of trees/shrubs.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

General Criteria Applicable to all Purposes

Pruning trees and shrubs shall follow the methods in Table 1 of the Pacific Basin Tree Pruning Technical Note or other locally appropriate technical reference materials referenced in FOTG, Section I.

Timing of pruning and branch removal of tree and shrub species will be described to accomplish the intended purpose.

Pruning and branch disposal operations will comply with applicable local laws and regulations including pre-activity permits, permissions, or notifications.

CONSIDERATIONS

Timing of pruning and shearing operations should consider seasonal nesting and breeding requirements of wildlife.

Pruning and shearing tools should be disinfected to prevent the spread of pathogens.

In urban areas special considerations need to be given for safety hazards.

Vegetative branches, stems and leaves left on the site after treatment will be managed to reduce fire or pest hazard and to reduce interference with the intended purposes and other management activities

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

For the applicable purpose species, site limitations, climate, pruning methods, equipment, timing of operation, hazard assessment and referenced technical guidance or manuals shall be considered.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Reinspection and re pruning as needed for the prescribed purposes.